

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission attended by Telephonic Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 881 2482 4568

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>      | <b>Allyn Backus</b>  |
| <b>Vice Chairperson:</b> | <b>Cheryl Kessel</b> |
| <b>Commissioners:</b>    | <b>Nick Wegman</b>   |
|                          | <b>Gail Worden</b>   |
|                          | <b>Cynthia Malla</b> |

**Town Staff:**  
**Parks and Recreation Manager**  
**Parks and Recreation Coordinator**

**Joni Westcott**  
**Chell Smart**

**AGENDA ITEM: CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting was called to order at 5:05pm by Chairperson Backus.

**AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.

**AGENDA ITEM: REPORTS**

**CURRENT EVENTS-** A brief summary of current events. The Commission will not propose, discuss, deliberate or act on any legal matter in the summary.

**CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT** –Chairperson Backus reported that she attended the recent March 2nd CDBA meeting where participants expressed interest in learning more about future Town events.

**STAFF REPORT:** There was no staff report.

**SPECIAL INTEREST REPORTS-** A summary of information on topics of interest to the Commission. The Commission may discuss these items but will not take legal action on any matter listed.

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**Centerville Park:** New slide will arrive and is estimated to be installed by the end of March.

**Copper Penny Park:** The developer confirmed that the Pickleball court was built to the specifications that were provided at the time of installation so the current pickleball court will not be expanded at this time. If it were to be expanded in the future, the cost is estimated at around \$2500. The developer has agreed to

install a barrier to keep pickleballs from falling into the ditch area. The Commission recommended requesting a coated fencing that is black or green without shade material.

**Verde River @ Clarkdale:** The meeting with Arizona State Parks Board has been postponed again until possibly April to discuss the Tuzi RAP voluntary pay station.

Outfitter permits have been issued and per the new implemented policy, revenues will increase by approximately \$23,000. This will assist with balancing the RAP budget.

**Benatz Trail** – This trail is a priority and updates will be coming in the near future regarding this project. Manager Westcott noted that Town Park is missing a slide and grant funding is currently being pursued for that project. Westcott noted that the Commission can start meeting in person in the Council chambers starting in April depending upon how the Commission members feel.

**AGENDA ITEM: MINUTES** – Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 10 and Special Meeting with Council held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

**Action: Approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held on February 10, 2021.**

**Motion: Commissioner Worden**

**Second: Vice Chair Kessel**

**Vote:**

| Voting Member                  | Aye/Nay |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Chairperson Allyn Backus       | Aye     |
| Vice Chairperson Cheryl Kessel | Aye     |
| Commissioner Cynthia Malla     | Aye     |
| Commissioner Nick Wegman       | Aye     |
| Commissioner Gail Worden       | Aye     |

**Action: Approval of the minutes of the Special meeting held on February 23rd, 2021.**

**Motion: Chairperson Backus**

**Second: Commissioner Wegman**

**Vote:**

| Voting Member                  | Aye/Nay |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Chairperson Allyn Backus       | Aye     |
| Vice Chairperson Cheryl Kessel | Aye     |
| Commissioner Cynthia Malla     | Aye     |
| Commissioner Nick Wegman       | Aye     |
| Commissioner Gail Worden       | Aye     |

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

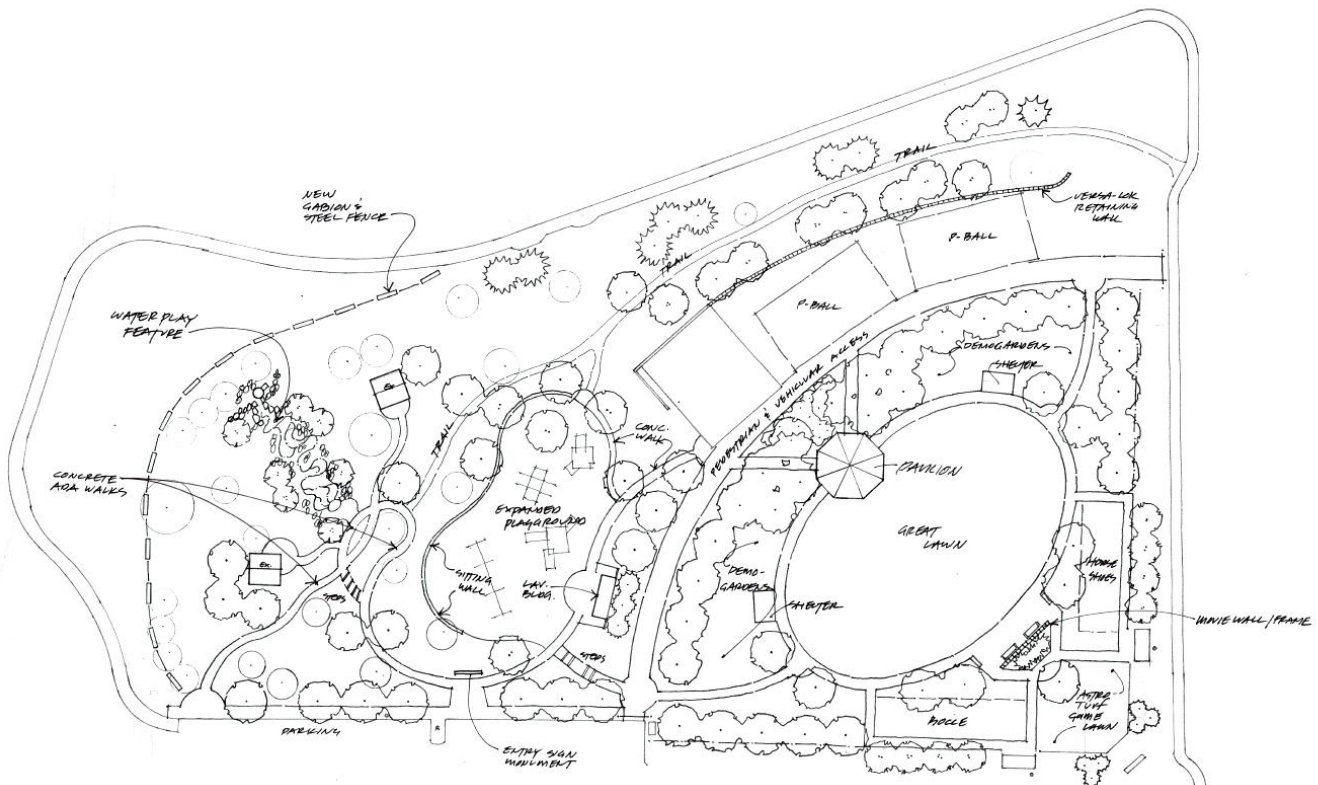
**AGENDA ITEM: SELNA MONGINI PARK** – Work session to review and discuss the updated Selna Mongini Park concept.

In 2018, the Selna Mongini Park Master Plan concept was presented by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by Town Council. There has been no further action taken on this plan.

Recently, Town staff enlisted the assistance of landscape architect , Barnabas Kane to review the plan and offer suggestions for going forward. Mr. Kane is working pro bono to create an updated park plan and will also assist with budget, construction plans, and other necessary steps needed in order to apply for the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant.

Mr. Kane has presented a preliminary draft of the park for staff to review with Commission.

While working on the application for grant funding, it was brought to the Town's attention that the leased portion of Selna Mongini park does not qualify for the LWCF funding. The Town will continue to pursue the grant for the portion of the park that is owned by the Town. The park plan is currently expected to stay as is. The portion of the match provided by Freeport McMoran will need to be adjusted so that it does not include remediation costs on the leased land. Alternative grant funding is being pursued for the leased portion of this park plan.



The park concept has been approved by Town Council in the past. The new rendering from T. Barnabas Kane includes the following changes to the most recent park plan:

- A wall with railing as a protective measure
- Concrete sidewalk throughout much of the park layout (ADA accessible)
- Water feature moved slightly downward
- A sitting wall around the playground area
- Decomposed granite trail

- Additional play area
- Restroom
- Continuation of retaining wall near basketball court
- Two pickleball courts
- Half-court basketball court
- Volleyball court has been removed
- Added large shaded pavilion
- Astro-turf game lawn
- Changed the location of the butterfly garden
- Small grass lawn near new pavilion
- Movie wall (could become a historical mural)
- Bocce/multiuse area
- Recommended large shades
- Dugouts would remain as covered seating areas

Commissioner Malla asked about using reclaimed water for the landscape and Westcott noted that although that water won't be reclaimed, other water conservation efforts at the park are a priority. The water feature will also focus on recycling water where possible.

Westcott noted that Staff has recently met with Verde Canyon Railroad about collaborating on a feature for the park that highlights the train and their contributions to Clarkdale.

The Commission directed staff to continue the development of the updated park plan and expressed support for the presented plan.

**AGENDA ITEM: 2021 EVENT PLANNING-** Discussion and possible action regarding events in 2021.

Due to public safety concerns and specific orders issued by Gov. Doug Ducey regarding COVID 19, the Town of Clarkdale was not able to provide public events in 2020.

Discussions regarding 2021 events are underway. Taking into consideration the current Covid 19 transmission rate in Yavapai County, it may be possible to offer events with the implementation of YCHD, CDC and ADHS public safety guidelines.

The 2020 deposits that were paid to bands transferred into the 2021 season so only half of the payment will be due for 2021. The current concert budget balance is \$9100.00. If all seven bands proceed, it will cost \$3375.00 for the bands. Including promotion materials, music licensing and additional bathroom costs, the total costs will be about \$4700.00. The remaining, anticipated balance will be about \$6000.00.

Westcott noted the following about a 2021 Concert season:

- Safety will be an important element of any event plan
- Controlling the number of participants will be necessary
- Any plan for events will include a COVID-19 mitigation plan which will be submitted to the State
- The View Deck is a potential location that allows for a controlled area
- If conditions improve, we can be flexible and possibly use the park
- The time would be 6pm – 8pm

- A potential sponsor could be pursued
- A potential concert for volunteers early in the season is under consideration
- A donation bucket would be put out

Commissioner Malla noted that this is a public venue so some attendees may say that they refuse to wear a mask. Conflicts between attendees may be a concern. She also noted the varying elements of concerns that are unpredictable and may change. Commissioner Worden noted that late summer (August) might be a safer schedule. Commissioner Worden noted that it would be important to make sure that the same people don't take the limited seating. Chairperson Backus said that she would recommend moving forward with planning assuming that it will happen at the View Deck.

The Commission recommended pushing concerts to July 10<sup>th</sup> and planning to hold them on the View Deck.

Commissioner Malla noted that if there is a COVID-19 surge, it needs to be clear that any events would then need to be cancelled.

Westcott noted the following regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event

- The community band could play on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at around 9am
- No 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade or pancake breakfast is being planned
- Decorations at Town Park will be put out again

Following a discussion of the amount of planning that would be involved, the Commission recommended not holding a July 3<sup>rd</sup> concert or planning any 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities.

Westcott noted the following regarding River Adventure Day on August 29<sup>th</sup>:

- A plan for distancing and other safety measures would be in place
- Limited attendance is expected

Commissioners recommended that Staff move forward with planning for River Adventure Day as it is a smaller, more manageable event.

**Action: Postpone the beginning of Concerts until July 24<sup>th</sup> on the view deck (depending upon State recommendations in the park) and no Fourth of July concert.**

**Motion: Vice Chair Kessel**

**Second: Commissioner Malla**

**Vote:**

| Voting Member                   | Aye/Nay |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Chairperson Allyn Backus        | Aye     |
| Vice Chairperson, Cheryl Kessel | Aye     |
| Commissioner Cynthia Malla      | Aye     |
| Commissioner Gail Worden        | Aye     |
| Commissioner Nick Wegman        | Aye     |

**AGENDA ITEM: 2022 PARKS & RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN-** Work session to develop the 2022 Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Department is pursuing the creation of a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. This plan will establish implementation strategies related to the goals and objectives of the

2022 General Plan. Staff is requesting direction regarding the Parks and Recreation Vision and Mission Statements.

**Action: Table this agenda item until a later date due to time constraints**

**Motion: Chairperson Backus**

**Second: Commissioner Kessel**

**Vote:**

| Voting Member                   | Aye/Nay |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Chairperson Allyn Backus        | Aye     |
| Vice Chairperson, Cheryl Kessel | Aye     |
| Commissioner Cynthia Malla      | Aye     |
| Commissioner Gail Worden        | Aye     |
| Commissioner Nick Wegman        | Aye     |

**AGENDA ITEM: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Listing of items to appear on future agendas.

Selna Mongini

Parks & Recreation Strategic plan

Community garden

**AGENDA ITEM: ADJOURNMENT**

***With no objection, meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.***

APPROVED:

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Chairperson, Allyn Backus

SUBMITTED BY:

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Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Chell Smart